



July 2005

AIDS MEDI-CAL WAIVER PROGRAM

What we do:

Local agencies, under contract with the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, HIV Care Branch, provide home- and community-based services as an alternative to nursing facility care or hospitalization. Services provided are: case management, skilled nursing, attendant care, psychotherapy, home-delivered meals, nutritional counseling, nutritional supplements, medical equipment and supplies, minor physical adaptations to the home, non-emergency medical transportation, and financial supplements for foster care.

Who we serve:

- Medi-Cal recipients: (1) whose health status qualifies them for nursing facility care or hospitalization, (2) in an "Aid Code" with full benefits (excludes long term care) and federal financial participation, and (3) not enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE);
- Individuals with a written diagnosis by an attending physician of HIV disease or AIDS with current signs, symptoms, or disabilities related to HIV disease or treatment;
- Adults who are certified by the nurse case manager to be at the nursing facility level of care and score 60 or less using the *Cognitive and Functional Ability Scale* assessment tool;
- Children under 13 years of age who are certified by the nurse case manager as HIV/AIDS symptomatic; and
- Individuals with a health status that is consistent with in-home services and who have a home setting that is safe for both the client and service providers (e.g., structurally sound, clear exits during emergencies, etc.).

What you should know:

- Medical equipment, medical supplies, and minor physical adaptations to the home have an annual maximum amount payable. Financial supplements for infants and children, non-emergency medical transportation, nutritional supplements, and home delivered meals have a monthly maximum amount payable.
- For continued approval, the cost of the program must be the same or less than the cost of institutional care. The program is currently approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, through December 2006 and is authorized to serve 3,330 persons in calendar year 2005 and 3,410 persons in calendar year 2006.
- Individuals cannot be simultaneously enrolled in any of the following programs: Medi-Cal Hospice Care Program, AIDS Case Management Program, and State Targeted Case Management Services Program.
- Whenever possible, the case manager will arrange for enrollment in another program if a client is determined not eligible, loses eligibility, or funds are exhausted.
- To find the nearest *AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)*, see Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS/counties/pdf/projectlistingcountiesservedmcwp.pdf>.



These MCWP agencies can provide additional information regarding eligibility and program services, enrolling and disenrolling clients, and direct provision of case management by a nurse and social worker. If you are not eligible for MCWP, you may be eligible for other programs within the same agency or its parent agency.

Helpful resources:

- To find the nearest AIDS Case Management Program, see Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS/counties/pdf/projectlistingcountiesservedcmp.pdf>.
- If you are a Medi-Cal recipient, for information on other Department of Health Services waiver programs, see Website http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-MTP/Part2/home_o07.doc.
- For information on other local HIV/AIDS services, see the *California Clearinghouse Resource Directory* at Website <http://www.hivinfo.org/links/lhj.htm>.
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
 - *California AIDS Hotline* at 1-800-367-AIDS (English/Spanish/Filipino) or 1-888-225-AIDS (TDD).
 - *National AIDS Hotline* at 1-800-342-AIDS (English), 1-800-344-SIDA (Spanish), or 1-800-243-7889 (TDD).
- For information on the Office of AIDS mission, Office of AIDS programs, and other helpful resources, see Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.

Frequently asked questions:

How long can I stay on the program? Indefinitely, as long as you are eligible and do not exceed your annual \$13,209 maximum amount payable.

What are the costs to clients? There are no costs to the client for AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program services. Individuals with a Medi-Cal share of cost must meet that share of cost each month to be eligible for services.

How do I apply for Medi-Cal? Call or visit your local county social services office and ask for a Medi-Cal application. If you need help filling out the application, call the county social services agency, and/or check their Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/medi-calhome/CountyListing1.htm>

